

In Convention of the Representatives of the  
State of New York, July 16.<sup>th</sup> 1776.—

Resolved unanimously that a Secret Committee be appointed to devise and carry into execution such measures as to them shall appear most effectual for obstructing the channel of Hudsons River or annoying the Enemies Ships in their Navigation up the said River, and that this Convention pledge themselves for defraying the charges incident thereon, — And Resolved & Ordered that Mr. Jay Mr. Robert Yates Major <sup>is now to</sup> Tappan, Mr. Robert R Livingston and Mr. Gilbert Livingston be the said Committee —

July 17<sup>th</sup>

Resolved that the Commissioners who superintend the Building of Ships at Poughkeepsie would be justified in suspending that work and offering the Carpenters and others employed thereon to labour under the direction of the secret Committee of this Convention, on such Vessels or works as they may think proper to build & erect for the defence of Hudsons River.

Resolved that the Commissioners would be justified in suffering the materials intended for the purpose of building the Continental Ships to be employed by the secret Committee in such a manner as to them shall seem best calculated for executing the trust reposed in them.

Resolved that this Convention will immediately apply to the Honorable the Congress for their approbation of this Measure.

Resolved that the Commissioners of the Continental ships, and Captains Lawrence and Tudor be immediately furnished with a copy of these Resolutions.

Resolved that

Resolved that the Secret Committee have power to impress  
Boats, Vessels, Teams waggon's Horses and Drivers when  
they shall find it necessary for the public Service; as  
well as to call out the Militia if Occasion should require.

Resolved that the Treasurer of this State be ordered to  
furnish the Gentleman of the secret Committee with the sum  
of five Thousand Pounds in Advance in order to enable ~~him~~  
them to expedite the important Business with which  
they are entrusted —

Extracts from the Minutes.

John McRae Son Secy.



Instructions to Miss<sup>n</sup> Robert Livingston and Robert Yates

- 4<sup>th</sup> You are to purchase at the cheapest rate you can three old Sloops, and send them down to Poughkeepsie
- 2<sup>d</sup> Procure a quantity of pine Knots, and other light wood and send it down in those Sloops.
- 3<sup>d</sup> Purchase a quantity not exceeding 100 Barrels of Tar Pitch and Turpentine. Also about 2<sup>1/2</sup> Ton of oakum and Junks of rope.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Purchase or get made with all possible Dispatch 100 oars of 20 and 14 foot.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Procure as many well fowlers as you can.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Purchase, hire or impress Two ~~fif~~ vessels, and order the same to be ~~fully~~ fitted out in an armed manner - for which Purpose you are hereby authorized to purchase Materials, ammunition and Stores, and to employ such men for the fitting out and manning those vessels as you may judge necessary.
- 7<sup>th</sup> You or either of you are requested to apply to Robert Livingston Esq<sup>r</sup> in order to engage with him to make as much ~~old~~ Iron of Two inches square as he can, until this Committee or any of its members should require him to stop. and to convey it down to his Landing, and that he acquaint Gilbert Livingston from time to time of the Quantity he ~~shall need~~ may have made, and conveyed to his landing.
- 8<sup>th</sup> You are hereby authorized and required to impress Teams Carriages Sloops and Horses and to call out Detachments of the Militia and generally to do or cause to be done at your discretion all such matters and things as you may deem necessary or expedient to forward and complete the aforesaid Business committed to your care.

Poughkeepsie 22 July 1776

Robert Yates Chairman  
Christ<sup>r</sup> Vappa  
Robt Livingston  
Gilbert Livingston  
John Feen

If appearing by a letter rec'd. the 27<sup>th</sup> of July 1776 to be the  
sentiments of the Committee that I should repair to New York  
to consult with Gen<sup>l</sup> Washington on matters relative to the fortifying  
Hudson's river & obstructing the navigation thereof. I conceive it pro-  
that M<sup>r</sup> Robert Yates shd singly & until another member of the secn<sup>d</sup>  
committee sent up transact the business given to us in charge  
& that he shd be vested with all the powers contained in the  
within instructions —

110. 18<sup>th</sup> Livingston

Chancellor Livingston

Copy of the Committee  
appointed by the Convention